

alone will cost trillions of dollars over the next decade.

The President says spending cuts are necessary to keep the deficit from increasing even more. This is only half accurate. Without the tax cuts enacted since 2001, our nation's fiscal health would be much rosier, and the President would not be asking the neediest and most vulnerable Americans to sacrifice.

With control of the White House and both Houses of Congress, this blueprint shows America the real Republican agenda. They want to cut Medicaid by \$60 billion over ten years and put more of the burden on states and the 45 million Americans who do not have health insurance. They want to eliminate 48 education programs that provide assistance with vocational education, education technology, and civic education. And they want us to fall \$12 billion further behind in our commitments under No Child Left Behind, handing an unfunded mandate to states and short-changing our teachers and students.

While the Department of Homeland Security receives an overall increase in funding, the President proposes cutting FIRE grants by 30 percent and first responder funding by 10 percent, in addition to a 42 percent cut for the hugely successful COPS program. How does this budget make us safer?

Perhaps most egregiously during this time of war, the President wants to impose new fees and increase copayments for veterans' health care, adding an undue burden to those who have served their country so honorably.

I urge my colleagues to join me in returning fiscal responsibility to the budgetary process and creating a realistic blueprint that meets the needs of the American people, not just the President's wealthiest supporters.

#### HONORING JOE F. COLVIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Joe F. Colvin, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Over his long and distinguished career, Mr. Colvin has played a key role in ensuring that America will continue to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy.

Mr. Colvin began his career more than 40 years ago as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy. After leaving the Navy, he held many different leadership positions in the nuclear energy industry.

Over the past nine years as head of NEI, Mr. Colvin has led the industry through a period of extraordinary change. When he began, the future of nuclear energy was by no means certain as many expected that most of America's reactors would close.

Recent events have proven dramatically different. Today, our country's 103 reactors are essential to the stability of our electricity supply and our clean air. Instead of closing, reactors are renewing their licenses and extending their operation. Now, several companies have begun to explore possibilities for licensing new nuclear power plants in the United States. This transformation is a testament to Mr. Colvin's vision and diligence.

Mr. Colvin has testified numerous times before the Committee on Energy and Commerce and other congressional committees, and has represented his industry well. In doing so, he has guided important policy initiatives, advanced numerous regulatory and legislative issues and cultivated a favorable investor climate for the industry that NEI represents.

Mr. Colvin's dedication and commitment to the industry he served will be missed, as will his enthusiasm and good nature. He will be missed also by his many friends in Congress. Hence, I extend to him best wishes for his retirement, and on behalf of the House of Representatives, thank him for his contributions.

#### DR. H.D. "DAVE" LUCK, A MAN OF HONOR

##### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. H.D. "Dave" Luck, a statesman, a leader, a veteran, and a true gentleman who passed away on January 3, 2005 in Arkansas at the age of 79. Dr. Luck was a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as someone who set forth to make Arkansas a better place to live as a champion for civil rights and higher education.

Born in 1925 in New York City, Dr. Luck graduated from Bates College in Maine in 1945, and earned his M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. After doing post graduate work in medical education at the United States Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Florida, and at University Hospital in Little Rock, Dr. Luck eventually settled in Arkadelphia where he founded the Arkadelphia Medical Clinic in 1979.

Dr. Luck began a life of public service in Arkadelphia, where he served as President of General Industries Corporation from 1962 until 1968, the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and the Arkadelphia Kiwanis Club. He was awarded the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Award in 1963.

Dr. Luck continued an inspiring career of public service on the state as Chair of the Democratic Party. In 1964, he chaired the Committee for Voter Registration. Dr. Luck's passion was Civil Rights; he chaired the coalition that successfully created a constitutional amendment which abolished the poll tax and set up a system of permanent voter registration. In 1965, President Johnson appointed him to the White House Conference on Civil Rights. Like many reformers before him, Dr. Luck was driven by a cause that was met with adversity. He met each challenge and cause with fervor that mystifies and inspires us to public service.

In addition to Civil Rights, Dr. Luck was committed to improving Arkansas higher education. He served as Trustee of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia from 1970 until 1982. He was appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Higher Education by Governor Bill Clinton, serving from 1988 until 1994.

His service went far beyond civilian life; Dr. Luck served in the U.S. Navy V-12 program during World War II. He also served as a

Naval Medical Officer during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.

Arkansas will be forever grateful that such a visionary leader came along, at the time he did, to lead us into a new era. I hope that you are as inspired as I have been by Dr. Luck's relentless determination to fight for such important causes. While Dr. Luck is no longer with us, his legacy lives on by the way he improved the quality of life for all Arkansans.

#### INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

##### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, now that Congress has passed landmark legislation that will help reform our intelligence community, I believe we must now take a closer look at streamlining congressional oversight of that community. Therefore, I am pleased to share with my colleagues a recent opinion piece, which explores some of the reform options available to us.

The op-ed, entitled "Joint Intelligence Committee Overdue" was published on Dec. 3, 2004, in the News-Leader—Florida's oldest weekly newspaper. It was authored by Mr. Thomas Smeeton, who is the former U.S. House Minority Staff Director of the Iran/Contra Committee and Minority Counsel of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee. Mr. Smeeton also served as a CIA officer. I hope my colleagues will find the op-ed interesting and beneficial:

#### JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE OVERDUE

The collapse of Congressional efforts to reform the intelligence community dominated the news just before Thanksgiving. The proposed legislation embodied many of the major recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for fixing the executive branch's intelligence problems. Largely overlooked in this reform debate is Congress' failure, so far, to do enough to address its own problems. Yet the 9/11 panel noted that "of all of our recommendations, strengthening Congressional oversight may be the most difficult and important." The commission also pointed out that, "Congressional oversight for intelligence and counterterrorism is now dysfunctional."

The main reason this critically important congressional responsibility is malfunctioning is because it is spread amongst too many committees. That is why the 9/11 Commission urged Congress to replace the current fragmented oversight arrangement with either a House-Senate joint committee or single panels in each congressional body with exclusive oversight and legislative power.

Consolidation along these lines would drastically reduce the time high level intelligence community officials spend on Capitol Hill repeating over and over again the same briefings and testimonies to the various committees now exercising jurisdiction over intelligence activities. Redundant congressional demands are becoming so time consuming that it is increasingly difficult for these senior officials to discharge their primary duties of attending to the many security issues confronting this nation.

The need to reform Congress' oversight of the intelligence community has been recognized by some members of Congress for